

CITY OF FORT WAYNE, INDIANA
Journal of the Proceedings
of the Common Council

Absent viz: Councilman

The minutes of the last regular _____ session having been delivered to the Council, were, on Motion, approved as published.



CITY OF FORT WAYNE

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

EDWIN J. ROUSSEAU
MEMBER OF CITY COUNCIL
AT-LARGE

Fellow Councilmen:

The year 1966 saw Fort Wayne growing at a rate virtually unprecedented in its history. The population increased, industry boomed, the downtown area started a rebirth, and construction of some type was going on almost everywhere in the city.

The growth, in a very real sense revolved around the City Council, and almost all of the growing pains experienced by the city during the past year automatically became the problems of the council.

A review of some of the highlights of council action during 1966 reflects the things that have been happening in our community.

The first problem to hit during 1966 was the crisis created by a lack of a place to dump garbage. The council was somewhat limited in what it could do immediately about the situation, but it did undertake a continuing investigation of the problem which hopefully will result in a permanent solution in the future. As a part of this investigation, several councilmen toured incineration plants in Winchester, Ky., and Detroit, Mich., to investigate the possibility of an incinerator here.



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One of the biggest problems facing the city government during the year, and probably the one which the council took the most active role in solving, concerned salaries being paid to city employees. As the city's economy boomed, so did the wages being paid in industry, and industrial salaries were so far outstripping the municipal salaries that there were difficulties in hiring and keeping qualified personnel.

A special wage committee authorized by the council studied the current wages being paid and compared them to similar wage scales in industry. The committee also did an evaluation of work performed by various employees in an attempt to eliminate inequities between departments. Based on the committee work, and after independent investigations on the part of some councilmen, the council this year granted substantial salary increases to most of the city employees. The wage increases, which do not go into effect until Jan. 1, have already had a favorable impact on the employment situation.

Another highly significant act of the 1966 council was the approval of a completely revised and updated building code. Work on preparing the code had been underway



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for well over a year. The new code not only brings up to date the regulations covering all types of construction, but also for the first time recognized that the future will bring new building materials and new methods of construction, and contains provisions to cope with these.

The council also faced up to the nagging problem of the continuing financial deterioration of the public bus system. The council undertook a special trip to Washington to confer with Federal officials about the possibility of obtaining a matching grant which, coupled with local funds, would put the bus company back on its feet.

Having obtained assurances that the city would be eligible for Federal funds, the council included in its 1967 budget a sum sufficient to pay its share of the cost of buying new buses for the company. However, the council did not obligate itself to go through with the bus subsidy, but merely set the \$185,000 aside in case it later decided to go ahead.

The council took advantage of its trip to Washington by consulting with a newly-formed agency which specializes in advising cities about the possibilities of obtaining Federal funds at any given time, and assists them



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in preparing an application. Some time later, the council approved funds for retaining this agency.

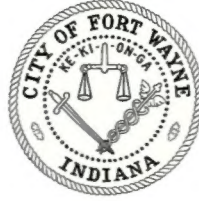
One of the major actions by the council this year, and one that was done with relatively little publicity because of the lack of controversy surrounding it, was to give the go-ahead for planning a \$15 million expansion of the City Water Works. The Water Works expansion is to be carried out over a period of several years.

The list of other major acts of the council in 1966 includes the following:

--Support was shown for public housing in Fort Wayne through the approval of necessary agreements between the city and the Fort Wayne Housing Authority, approving the Housing Authority's application for federal funds, and taking other measures to keep the program rolling.

--Support was also shown the Department of Redevelopment, not only through the quick passage of several vital ordinances, but also through an emergency appropriation for the hiring of additional building inspectors.

--The Aviation Board was given permission to hire a consulting firm in an attempt to obtain more airlines service for the city.



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--Plans for creating a central garage for municipally owned vehicles were approved, and the council authorized money to carry out the program.

--A special census was approved and funded by the council.

--A cumulative building fund was established for the Park Department.

To keep up with the city's growth, the council during the year approved five annexation ordinances. Included among these was the Dana Corp. property on West State Blvd.

Other annexations were: Speedway, 320 acres and 128 people; Colonial Heritage, 320 acres and 1,498 people; Southtown Mall site, 82 acres proposed for a major shopping center; and the Wildrose area, 133 acres and 573 people.

In this review of council activities during my term as president, I have only attempted to recall to mind a few of the things we did. Other highly important things, such as working for increased traffic safety, are really too familiar to us all and too lengthy to mention here.

The council was not always in agreement on the ordinances approved, and some of the controversies grew quite bitter at times. However, as the year progressed I was able to notice the council members grow closer and



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closer together as it worked its way through the common problems. They said it couldn't be done, to use an old cliché, but I believe the deep wounds opened up by the 1965 City Light fight have been healed for the most part.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the privilege of serving as your president during such an important period in our city's development. I sincerely feel that we have aided that development.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
IN ORGANIZATION SESSION,
TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 1967.

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The President announced the regular order of business would be the election of officers for the ensuing year.

Councilman Robinson placed the name of Councilman Rousseau in nomination for President. Nomination was seconded by Councilman Muckelbaums. Councilman Huiga moved that the clerk cast a unanimous ballot for Councilman Rousseau for President of the Council. Councilman _____ seconded the motion which was carried unanimously. Thereupon _____ took over the chair as President of the Council.

Councilman Mackol Tripton then placed the name of Fay in nomination for Vice-President. Nomination was seconded by Councilman Muckelbaums. Councilman Demifon moved nomination be closed; Seconded by Councilman Muckelbaums. Motion unanimously carried. Thereupon Councilman _____ moved that the clerk cast a unanimous ballot for Councilman _____ as Vice-President. Councilman _____ seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Demifon placed the name of Councilman Steigward III in nomination for Council Representative to the City Plan Commission. Nomination was seconded by Councilman Tripton. Councilman Robinson moved the Clerk cast a unanimous ballot that Councilman Buchanan be unanimously elected Council Representative of the City Plan Commission. Motion seconded by Councilman _____ and unanimously carried.

Councilman Huiga placed the name of Councilman Robinson in nomination for Council Representative to the Johnny Appleseed Commission. Nomination was seconded by Councilman Muckelbaums. Motion unanimously carried. Councilman Buchanan moved that Councilman _____ be unanimously elected Council Representative of the Johnny Appleseed Commission and that the Clerk cast a unanimous ballot accordingly. Seconded by Councilman _____ and unanimously carried.

The Council then adjourned.

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that I am the duly elected, acting and incumbent City Clerk of the City of Fort Wayne, Indiana and as such the custodian of the records of the Common Council of said city and that the above and foregoing is the true, full and complete record of the proceedings of the Common Council of the City of Fort Wayne, Indiana for its organization Session, held on Tuesday, the 3rd day of January, 1967; that the numbered ordinances shown therein were duly adopted by said Common Council on said date and were presented by me to the Mayor of the City of Fort Wayne and were signed and approved or disapproved by said Mayor as and on the dates shown as to each such ordinance respectively; and that all such records, proceedings and ordinances remain on file and record in my office.

WITNESS my hand and the official seal of the City of Fort Wayne, Indiana, this 3rd day of January, 1967.

Walter C. Meyers
City Clerk

SEAL